

REMARKS

Claims 1, 3-6, and 8-19 are now pending in the application. Claims 2 and 7 are cancelled. Minor amendments have been made to the claims to simply overcome the objections to claim 15 and rejections of claims 8 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. § 112. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks contained herein.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 because the Examiner believes the claimed invention is directed to non-statutory subject matter.

In response to this rejection, Claims 1-19 have been amended to include that the tools claimed therein are implemented by a computer program executed by one or more processors. The amendments are fully disclosed in Paragraphs [0012], [0015]–[0018] and the related Figures. No new matter has been added.

Further, the Claims have been amended to include information or data that is visually represented or externally accessible. A practical application for the claimed tools therefore includes a user of the claimed tools accessing/viewing information relating to an objective/task so that efforts relating to completing the objective may be coordinated.

It is therefore believed that this rejection has been overcome.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph because, according to the Examiner, current case law (and accordingly, the MPEP) require such a rejection if a 35 U.S.C. § 101 rejection is given. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed above regarding the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 101, Applicants have amended the Claims so that they may be used for the purpose of providing information to a user of the claimed tools.

Claims 8 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as the invention. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 8 and 12 have been amended to overcome this rejection. No new matter has been added. It is therefore believed that all rejections to the Claims under 35 U.S.C. § 112 are overcome.

REJECTION UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Breslin (U.S. Pat. No. 5,321,610). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

With respect to amended Claim 1, Breslin does not show, teach or suggest a second level of visually represented information comprising interrelationships between work positions, wherein each of said work positions correspond to one or more workers that work on one or more of said steps. As mentioned, the amendments are fully disclosed in Paragraphs [0012], [0015]–[0018] and the related Figures.

As best understood by Applicants, Breslin is directed to a process of developing a product that implements software. FIG. 7 and the related description of Breslin describes a tiered system. According to the Examiner, the block labeled "organization" in the tiered system covers interrelationships between workers. Claim 1 as amended includes a visual representation of information of interrelationships between work positions that correspond to workers working on steps to achieve the objective. Breslin does not disclose or suggest a visual representation of how positions interrelate to achieve an objective.

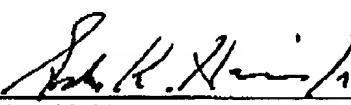
Therefore, Claim 1 is believed to be allowable for at least the reason that the Claim and the prior art differ. Claims 8 and 12 are allowable for at least similar reasons as Claim 1. Claims 3-6, 9-11, and 13-19 ultimately depend from Claims 1, 8, and 12 and are allowable for at least similar reasons.

CONCLUSION

It is believed that all of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider and withdraw all presently outstanding rejections. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action and the present application is in condition for allowance. Thus, prompt and favorable consideration of this amendment is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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